



# News Release

## Arizona Department of Public Safety

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### ***DPS Traffic Stop Yields 38 Alligators***

An Arizona Department of Public Safety Highway Patrol Officer discovered 32 alligators during a routine traffic stop on Interstate 10 at milepost 187 just outside of Casa Grande. Protected desert tortoises, over 50 boa constrictors, rabbits, chickens and rats also made up this peculiar cargo.

While on routine patrol, DPS Highway Patrol Officer Glen Swavely observed a pick-up truck pulling a large fifth wheel trailer eastbound on Interstate 10 in the area of Milepost 187. The trailer did not have operational taillights. Officer Swavely stopped the vehicle and made contact with the driver. After a brief interview, Officer Swavely felt that the driver and his wife were acting in a very suspicious manner.

During a subsequent search of the trailer, Officer Swavely located 38 alligators, several of which were full size adults weighing over 300lbs. Other animals being transported included 3 protected desert tortoises, over 50 boa constrictors, chickens, rats, rabbits and two dogs.

Once the alligators were discovered, the entire truck and trailer were driven to the Casa Grande Highway Patrol Station. DPS Officers then assisted Arizona Game and Fish with securing the dangerous jaws of the alligators and removing them one by one from the trailer. They were then loaded onto another trailer and were transported to a shelter in Phoenix.

The driver of the vehicle was cited for driving on a suspended license and was issued a repair order for operating a motor vehicle with no taillights. He was then released by DPS. Charges by Game and Fish were pending and include possession and transportation of alligators without a permit and possession of protected desert tortoises.